

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

01 March 2024

Dear students and staff

### UPDATE: CAMPUS OPERATIONS AND TEACHING & LEARNING

There are new developments following the joint meeting of the Executive Management Committee (EMC) and the Senate Executive Committee (Senex) which was held earlier today. The meeting addressed critical issues impacting our university community, including updates on Student Services, Accommodation and NSFAS allowances; Protection Services; and Teaching and Learning.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all students and staff for your patience, support and understanding during the challenging circumstances that we faced last week. We also hope that our colleagues who were unfortunately injured by the violent protestors are continuing with the healing process. As a university community, we pray for their full recovery.

Following the EMC-Senex meeting this afternoon, please take note of the following updates:

### STUDENT SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATION

The DUT Student Housing and Residence Life unit has to date, allocated 21772 students in residences, both in Durban (16500) and in the Midlands (5272). There was never a challenge with a shortage of beds in Durban, however, in the Midlands, there was a shortfall of 1652 beds. This is being resolved via Accredited Private Accommodation and there are no remaining challenges related to student accommodation.

### NSFAS ALLOWANCES

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) disbursed upfront payments covering 50% of book allowances and one-month accommodation fees. An additional payment was made to cover the February and March NSFAS allowances for food and transport and this was disbursed today. Recipients within this group, will receive their allowances within 24 hours. The second half of book allowances will be disbursed during the cycle next week.

Following our meeting with NSFAS, the SRC and the Office of the Public Protector on Wednesday, 27 February 2024, positive outcomes were achieved. As a result, the DUT Finance team is currently in the process of finalising allowance payments to qualifying students.

There are 840 NSFAS beneficiaries out of 22094 recipients at DUT, who have not updated and/or provided accurate banking details. We urge this group of 840 students to urgently provide their correct banking details via the portal. If students require in-person assistance to update their banking details, we advise those recipients to please engage with the Financial Aid unit for further support.

## PROTECTION SERVICES

Legal and disciplinary action has already been instituted against those who committed violent and criminal acts during the recent protest action. The investigation to identify and to charge other perpetrators is continuing. The Protection Services team will be working closely with law enforcement agencies to facilitate the peaceful return to physical teaching and learning. Other security related interventions are being implemented to enhance the safety of the university community.

## TEACHING & LEARNING

Following positive engagements with NSFAS, the SRC and various units at DUT, we can confirm that the interim online teaching and learning will now be suspended. Therefore, on-campus, face-to-face teaching and learning will resume on all campuses from Monday, 04 March 2024.

## CONCLUSION

Your support, understanding and resilience during this period was truly commendable and we appreciate and value your ongoing commitment to academic excellence and to the safety and wellbeing of the entire DUT community. As always, we advise you to only access university statements via our official platforms:

- DUT PinBoard (staff email system)
- DUT4life (student email accounts)
- DUT website (under Highlights, on the homepage)
- DUT staff portal
- DUT student portal

Best wishes for the rest of the semester and we look forward to seeing all students back on campus for in-person teaching and learning next Monday, 04 March 2024.

Sincerely

DUT Management team



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